HA-1267

Asbury M.E. Church

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 02-18-2004

HA-1267

Asbury M.E. Church
Asbury Road
Churchville, Maryland 21028

The Asbury M.E. Church was known as "Big Asbury", since it was the only church for blacks when it was organized in 1838. The ground for the church was given by Nathan Cooper, who acquired it from Malinda Cooper and Mary A. Brown, two slaves from Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania.

The one-story, gable-roofed frame structure dates from 1881; the present church was dedicated on June 8, 1924.

HA- 1267

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MAGI #1312675

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON
Asbury M.E. Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
West side of Asbury Rd., north of Edwards Road

CITY, TOWN
Churchville, ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maryland 21028

COUNTY Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
___DISTRICT	___PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE	___MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	___UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL	___PARK
___STRUCTURE	___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL	___PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	___ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	___GOVERNMENT	___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL	___TRANSPORTATION
		___NO	___MILITARY	___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
c/o Trustees of Asbury M.E. Church Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
Asbury Road

CITY, TOWN
Churchville, ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21028

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #:
Folio #:

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
40 S. Main St.

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air,

STATE
Maryland 21014

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

AA-126

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_ UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	_RUINS	X ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the west side of Asbury Road, approximately halfway between the intersection with Edwards Lane and the intersection with Churchville Road (Md. Rte. 22) are two frame churches belonging to the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church.

To the north, the one story, gable-roofed structure, three bays by three bays, was built in 1883. Covered in clapboard, the building has 6/6 sash windows and an entrance in the center bay of the south end. The double-leafed door has six panels in each leaf and a transom.

The building to the south, constructed in 1924, is of similar configuration, but has a projecting two-story, hip-roofed tower on the southeast corner and windows with pointed arches. Covered in aluminum siding, this structure with a gable roof is three bays long and two bays wide, with additions on the west end and north side. On the east end is a brick exterior chimney. Windows have miter arches with curved upper muntins.

The entrance is in the east side of the tower. The second story of the tower has a diamond-shaped window at the flared base and two louvered openings in each side. The east end of the main structure has one window in the first story and a round window in the gable.

The cemetery is west of the 1883 structure.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

NA-1267

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	X RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	_ARCHITECTURE	_EDUCATION	_MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
X 1800-1899	_COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Asbury M. E. Church claims to have been the only Negro Church in Harford County.

Asbury Church was organized in 1838 on ground given by Nathan Cooper. He apparently procured this property from Malinda Cooper and her sister Mrs. Mary A. Brown, who were sold as slaves from Peach Bottom, Pa. to a family in St. Mary's County. They then moved to Harford County where this property was given to them. Thus, according to church records, this lot has been in the hands of Negroes for more than 150 years.

The church was known as "Big Asbury", since it was the only church for blacks in Harford County.

(It is not clear when the Gunpowder Meeting House became a meeting place for a Negro Methodist Congregation in the Edgewood-Magnolia area. Called "Gunpowder Station of the Methodist Church of Magnolia" or "Old Presbury", it served as a church and school until 19.)

It is unclear when the first building of Asbury M.E. Church was constructed, but Wilmore Hopkins is said to have been the builder. The first members were: Nathan Cooper, Sr., Shadrack Johnson, Sr., Nathan Cooper, Sr., Edward Cooper, Harry Clark, James Chambers, Julia A. Willis, and Emily Johnson.

The first ministers of Asbury Church were white: Rev. Taylor, Rev. Gambol, Rev. Veriton, Rev. Wealthy, and Rev. Gwynn. In 1864, after the organization of the Washington Annual Conference, Bishop Levi Scott sent Asbury M.E. Church its first black ministers, Rev. Henry Matthews (1864-1866) and Rev. Joseph Henry (1866-1888).

Most preachers served two year terms: Rev. Stephen Tasco, 1868-1870; Rev. John B. Snowden, 1870-1872; Rev. Daniel Johnson, 1872-1875; Rev. Daniel Aquilla, 1875-1878; Rev. Samuel Brown, who was credited with 50 conversions between 1881 and 1884; Rev. A.D. Valentine, who started the foundation of a new church (still standing), 1881-1884; Rev. W. H. Brooks, 1887-1892; Rev. John H. Brice, who organized the Cooper's Chapter Epworth League No. 10195, 1892-1894; Rev. L. W. Briggs, 1894-1897; Rev. W. H. Jones, 1897-1902; Rev. J.C. Love, 1902-1903; Rev. George A. Davis, 1903-1907; Rev. J.T. Owings, 1907-1912; Rev. J. L. Brown, during whose tenure (1912-1917) the parsonage was built; Dr. D.L. Washington, 1917-1922; and Rev. Charles E. Jones, who purchased the lot for the present church, dedicated on June 8, 1924, and served until 1928.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

HA-1267

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Centennial souvenir and Program of the Asbury M.E. Church, 1838-1938

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION
Harford County Historic District Commission

DATE
July, 1979

STREET & NUMBER
45 S. Main St.

TELEPHONE
301-879-2000 ext. 207

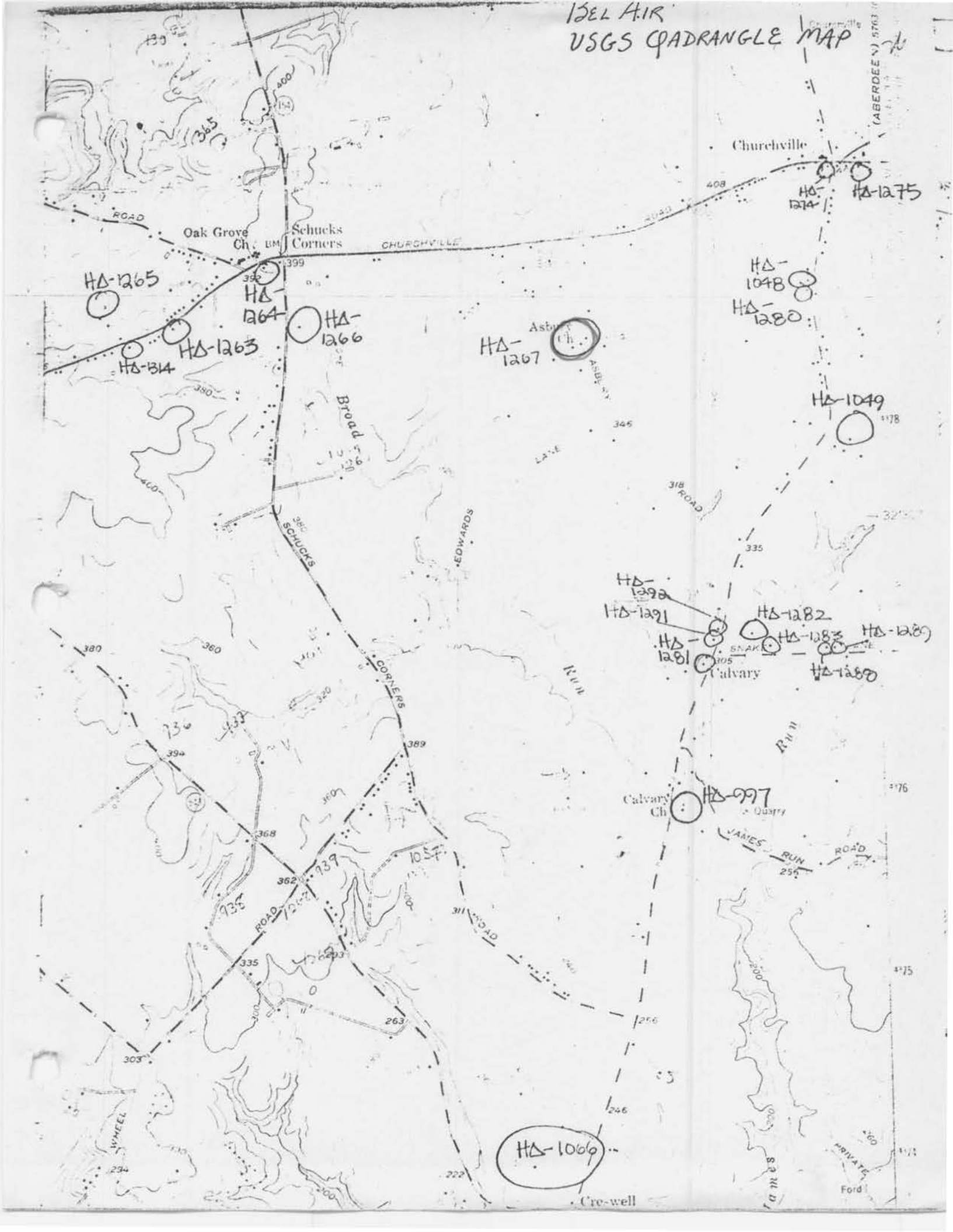
CITY OR TOWN
Bel Air,

STATE
Maryland 21014

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438


BEL AIR
USGS QADRANGLE MAP
Churchville
HΔ-1274
HΔ-1275
HΔ-1048
HΔ-1280
HΔ-1049
HΔ-1265
HΔ-1264
HΔ-1266
HΔ-1263
HΔ-1314
HΔ-1267
HΔ-1292
HΔ-1291
HΔ-1282
HΔ-1283
HΔ-1289
HΔ-1281
HΔ-1288
HΔ-997
HΔ-1066
Oak Grove Ch
Schucks Corners
CHURCHVILLE
ROAD
Broad
SCHUCKS
CORNERS
EDWARDS
LANE
Run
Calvary
Calvary Ch
Quarry
JAMES RUN ROAD
WHEEL
PRIVATE
Ford
Cre-well
(ABERDEEN)

Asbury M. E. Church Sunday School HA-1267
Churchville, Maryland 21028
Natalie Shivers
June, 1979
Northeast

Asbury M. E. Church
Churchville, Maryland 21028

HA- 1267

Natalie Shivers
June, 1979
Southeast